

From: fremontsmith
To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 1/28/02 8:51pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I believe the settlement proposed by the DOJ has more the feel of a Microsoft promotional document than a serious attempt to prevent Microsoft from further abusing its monopoly. I feel it is completely inadequate to protect other markets from the same abuse that Microsoft placed upon the web browsers. I feel it does little or nothing to keep Microsoft from continuing to enjoy the benefits of past abuses. I cannot believe that the very limited enforcement possibilities included in this agreement will have any hope of materially changing the behavior of Microsoft. Microsoft has ignored or broken many agreements in the past. I would fully expect Microsoft to interpret this agreement as allowing them to do practically anything they wanted to do. I am particularly dismayed by the inclusion of clauses that would allow Microsoft to use security as a pretext to withhold API information, or to prevent OEM's from unbundling Microsoft middleware. I certainly do not feel accepting this agreement would be in the best interest of the general public.

Sincerely,
Fremont Smith
Software Engineer